

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY, AND FEDERAL RELATIONS**

**Call to Order:** Chair Daniel Zolnikov, on February 3, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 472 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Daniel Zolnikov, Chair (R)  
Rep. Denise Hayman, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Derek Skees, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)  
Rep. Geraldine Custer (R)  
Rep. Adam Hertz (R)  
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Shane A. Morigeau (D)  
Rep. James O'Hara (R)  
Rep. Zac Perry (D)  
Rep. Alan Redfield (R)  
Rep. Adam Rosendale (R)  
Rep. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy (D)

**Members Excused:**

Rep. Austin Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Nate McConnell (D)  
Rep. Andrea Olsen (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Sydney Kessel, Committee Secretary  
Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 7, 1/30/2017; SB 11, 1/30/2017  
Executive Action: HB 219, HB 52, HB 34, HB 297 & SJ 2

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 219**

00:01:35     **Motion:** Rep. Skees moved that **HB 219 DO PASS.**

00:01:55     **Motion:** Rep. Skees moved that **HB 219 BE AMENDED.**

**EXHIBIT**(feh25a01)

**Discussion:**

00:02:38     Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Service Division (LSD)

00:04:00     Chair Zolnikov

00:05:19     Vice Chair Hayman

00:05:35     **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. A. Knudsen and Rep. Olsen voted by proxy.

00:06:30     **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Skees moved that **HB 219 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**  
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. A. Knudsen and Rep. Olsen voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 52**

00:07:40     **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Skees moved that **HB 52 BE** TABLED. Motion carried 13-3 by voice vote with Rep. McConnell, Rep. Morigeau and Rep. Olsen voting no. Rep. A. Knudsen and Rep. Olsen voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 34**

00:09:00     **Motion:** Rep. Skees moved that **HB 34 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

00:09:15     Vice Chair Hayman

00:09:45     **Vote:** Motion carried 9-7 by roll call vote with Rep. Custer, Rep. A. Knudsen, Rep. C. Knudsen, Rep. O'Hara, Rep. Redfield, Rep. Skees and Rep. Zolnikov voting no. Rep. A. Knudsen and Rep. Olsen voted by proxy.

00:11:33     Recess

00:13:07     Reconvene

00:13:15     **Motion:** Rep. Skees moved to **RECONSIDER THE MOTION** on **HB 34.**

**Discussion:**

00:13:20     Chair Zolnikov

00:13:37     **Motion Vote:** Motion carried 9-7 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. Hayman, Rep. McConnell, Rep. Morigeau, Rep. Olsen, Rep. Perry and Rep. Stewart-Peregoy voting no. Rep. A. Knudsen and Rep. Olsen voted by proxy.

00:14:45 **Motion:** Rep. Skees moved that **HB 34 BE TABLED**.

00:15:06 Without objection, Rep. Skees withdrew the **BE TABLED** motion.

00:15:12 **Motion:** Rep. Skees moved that **HB 34 DO PASS**.

**Discussion:**

00:15:20 Rep. McConnell

00:15:34 Sonja Nowakowski, LSD

00:15:5 Rep. McConnell

00:16:10 **Vote:** Motion failed 8-8 by roll call vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. Hayman, Rep. A. Hertz, Rep. McConnell, Rep. Morigeau, Rep. Olsen, Rep. Perry and Rep. Stewart-Peregoy voting aye. Rep. A. Knudsen and Rep. Olsen voted by proxy.

00:17:10 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Skees made a substitute motion that **HB 34 BE TABLED**. Substitute Motion carried 15-1 by voice vote with Rep. Stewart-Peregoy voting no. Rep. A. Knudsen and Rep. Olsen voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 297**

00:18:00 **Motion:** Rep. Skees moved that **HB 297 DO PASS**.

**Discussion:**

00:19:31 Rep. Hertz

00:20:00 Rep. Redfield

00:20:30 **Motion:** Rep. Hayman moved that **HB 297 BE AMENDED**.

[\*\*EXHIBIT\*\*](#)(feh25a02)

**Discussion:**

00:20:50 Sonja Nowakowski, LSD

00:21:12 Vice Chair Hayman

00:21:42 Rep. Hertz

00:22:08 Rep. Custer

00:22:32 **Vote:** Motion carried 15-1 by voice vote with Rep. Skees voting no. Rep. A. Knudsen and Rep. Olsen voted by proxy.

00:23:18 Vice Chair Hayman

00:23:26 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Skees moved that **HB 297 DO PASS AS AMENDED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. A. Knudsen and Rep. Olsen voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 2**

00:24:08 **Motion:** Rep. Skees moved that **SJ 2 BE REMOVED FROM TABLE.**

**Discussion:**

00:24:40 Chair Zolnikov

00:24:56 Sonja Nowakowski, LSD

00:25:11 **Vote:** Motion carried 14-0 by roll call vote. Rep. A. Knudsen and Rep. Olsen were excused.

00:26:16 **Motion:** Rep. Skees moved that **SJ 2 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

00:26:26 Vice Chair Skees

00:26:52 **Vote:** Motion carried 14-0 by voice vote. Rep. A. Knudsen and Rep. Olsen were excused. Rep. Bishop will carry the bill.

00:27:25 Vice Chair Skees

00:27:40 Chair Zolnikov

**HEARING ON SB 11**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:28:14 Sen. Pat Connell (R), SD 43, opened the hearing on SB 11, Require PSC review of net metering interconnection.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:33:45 Chris Cavazos, AFL-CIO

00:33:57 David Hoffman, North Western Energy (NWE)

00:34:18 Aimee Grmoljez, MDU Resource Group, Inc.

00:34:50 Adam Haight, Northern Plains Resource Council

00:35:09 Brian Fadie, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

00:35:38 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Co Association

00:36:05 Levi Ostberg, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

[\*\*EXHIBIT\*\*](#)(feh25a03)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:36:40 Will Rosquist, Public Service Commission, (PSC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:37:03 Rep. C. Knudsen

00:37:48 Sen. Connell

00:39:11 Rep. C. Knudsen

00:39:51 Sen. Connell

00:41:39 Rep. C. Knudsen

00:42:00 Sen. Connell

00:42:52 Chair Zolnikov  
00:44:24 Will Rosquist, PSC  
00:46:55 Chair Zolnikov

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:46:15 Sen. Connell

**HEARING ON SB 7**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:47:00 Sen. Pat Connell (R), SD 43, opened the hearing on SB 7, Generally revise net metering.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:56:30 David Hoffman, North Western Energy (NWE)

[EXHIBIT\(feh25a04\)](#)

00:58:52 Gary Forrester, Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:00:40 Adam Haight, Northern Plains Resource Council

01:02:19 Brian Fadie, Montana Environmental Informational Center (MEIC)

01:03:43 Tucker Finley, Montana Public Interest Research Group

01:04:10 Denny Haywood, Self

[EXHIBIT\(feh25a05\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh25a06\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:**

01:06:35 Will Rosquist, Public Service Commission (PSC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:07:00 Vice Chair Hayman

01:07:30 Will Rosquist, PSC

01:09:55 Vice Chair Hayman

01:10:33 Will Rosquist, PSC

01:12:51 Rep. Custer

01:13:27 Will Rosquist, PSC

01:13:34 Sonja Nowakowski, LSD

01:14:04 Rep. Bishop

01:14:36 Sen. Connell

01:15:18 Rep. Bishop

01:15:34 Sen. Connell

01:16:55 Chair Zolnikov

01:17:23 Adam Haight

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:17:43 Sen. Connell

01:23:25 Chair Zolnikov

01:24:26 Sonja Nowakowski, LSD

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 01:24:53

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Sydney Kessel, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([feh25aad.pdf](#))